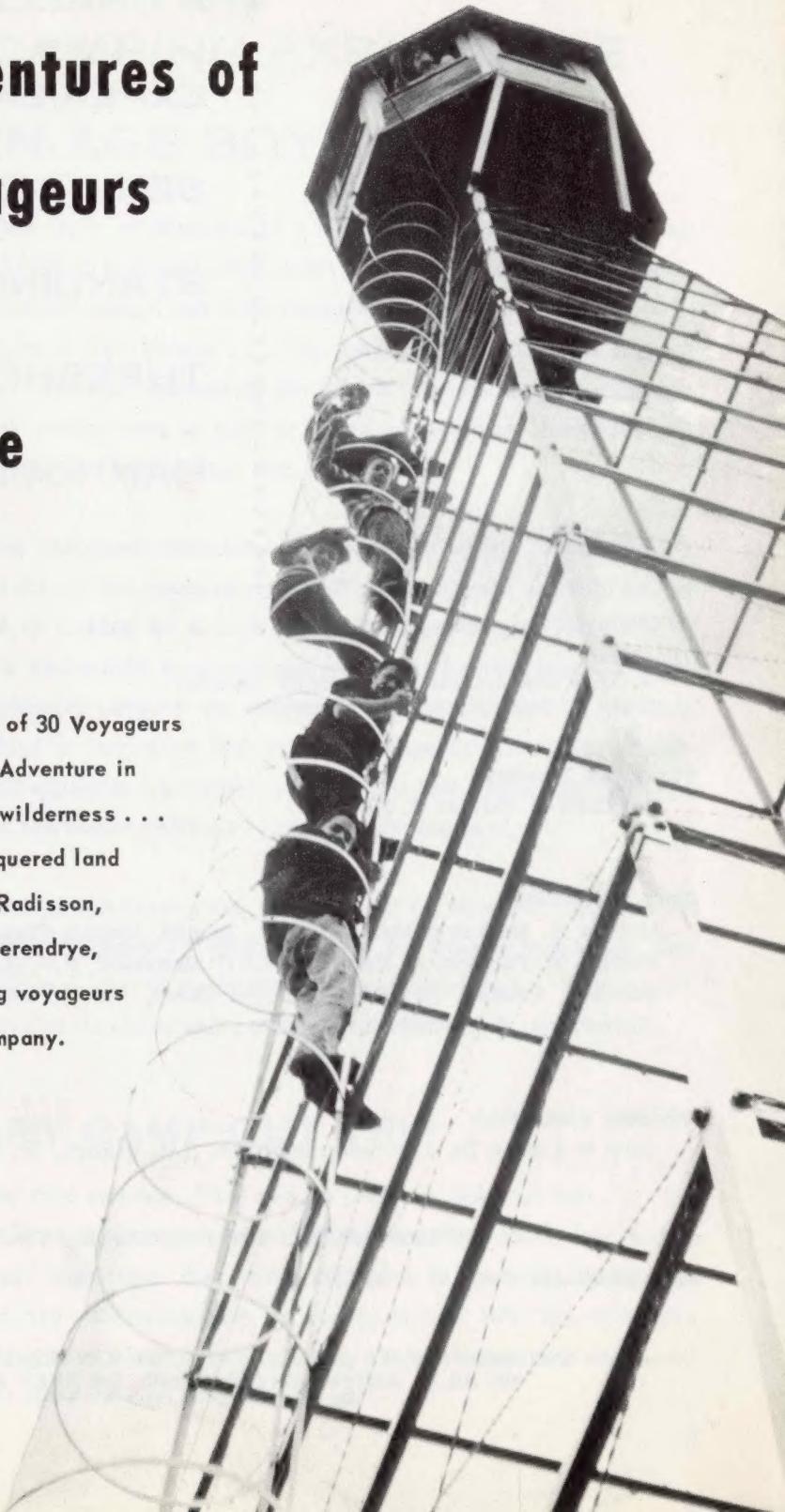


# The Adventures of The Voyageurs of Verendrye

This is the story of 30 Voyageurs  
on a Summer Adventure in  
Quebec's northern wilderness . . .  
the vast unconquered land  
of the Algonquin, Radisson,  
Champlain, La Verendrye,  
and the beaver-trapping voyageurs  
of the Hudson's Bay Company.



A CHALLENGING  
EXPERIENCE FOR  
SENIOR BOYS  
STANDING AT THE  
THRESHOLD TO  
MANHOOD

**VOYAGEURS . . . 1960**

**Directors:**

A. Ross Seaman, Director of Boys' Camping  
Harry K. Gordon, Voyageurs Director

**Voyageurs Leaders:**

J. Organ; R. Wilson; A. Perry.

**Camp Committee:**

Gordon A. Mackey (Chairman), H.C. Brophy, George Clouston, D. Dewar, Allan Forbes, H. Furness, A. Hamilton, W.J.C. Hewetson, F.G. Hubbard, S.F. Kneeland, Marshall Lebeau, Roy D. Locke, A. Miles, F.J. Nobbs, O.N.H. Owens, A.R. Tzventarny, E.J. Stafford.

**Advisory Committee:**

John F. Lewis, Dr. J. Preston Robb, Dr. H.G. Dimock, Dr. H.F. Hall.

**OPERATED BY THE MONTREAL YMCA**

**1441 Drummond Street**

**VI. 4-0131**

**Cover photo: VISITING "EMILE", QUEBEC FORESTRY RANGER AT LAC BOUCHETTE  
350 MILES ABOVE MONTREAL AND 100 FEET ABOVE GROUND**

# **DESIGNING A SENIOR CAMPING EXPERIENCE FOR TEEN-AGE BOYS**

Three hundred miles north of Montreal is La Verendrye Park. Within several thousand square miles of virgin bush and lakes, some occasional Indian encampments, Hudson's Bay Posts, lumber camps, and Fire Rangers are the only signs of civilization. This was the land of New France . . . The domain of Radisson, the home of the Algonquins, and the once busy territory of the French beaver-trapping voyageurs. Into this vast unspoiled country went 30 boys on a land of wilderness adventure that would inspire the imagination of any teenage boy.

The YMCA has been concerned about the needs of the older boy in camping. By the time a lad has had five or six years of organized camp program, he feels he has "had the course" and is looking for a more challenging experience. What kind of summer adventure could YMCA offer to answer the needs of a teenage boy . . . a boy who stands shorn of childish pursuits yet unprepared and unaccepted in the adult world? It had to be a kind of experience that would challenge him physically and intellectually; that would appeal to his boyish imagination; that would stimulate him to recognize and accept the responsibilities of growing into manhood.

Last summer the Metropolitan Boys Camp Committee of the Montreal YMCA set up six three-week canoe-trip "voyageurs" adventures into the Quebec northlands. The test project involved 30 boys, 14-17 years old. It was decided that a "voyageurs" group would be comprised of five boys and a senior YMCA leader.

## **NO ORDINARY CAMP-OUT TRIP**

Leadership was the first concern. This was no ordinary camp-out trip . . . the voyageurs leaders had to have a great variety of skills. Most important, they had to have camping skills and experience that would guarantee their ability to live for three weeks in the Quebec wilderness with no access to city life. But there was another kind of leadership that was important . . . the kind of mature man who could recognize and fulfill the needs of a growing teenage boy.

## TRAINING AT THE BASE CAMP

A sleep-out "Base-Camp" was established 1½ miles outside YMCA Kamp Kanawana. This was a training camp where the Voyageurs spent three days getting acquainted with each other and brushing up on their camping skills. This orientation program included the use of canoe equipment, bedding down, and cooking, just as they would later in the northlands bush.

Canvas canoes built for fast and rough waters, and light enough for frequent portaging later became the pride of each group. At Base Camp the neophyte Voyageurs studied proper care for and repair of torn canvas and cracked ribbings. There were lessons in map reading with government topographical maps . . . there is no one to ask directions of in La Verendrye Park!

Camping is a real experience when the equipment is sensible and comfortable. The three-day Base Camp training proved valuable in many ways. Packing procedures were rehearsed for food packs and gear since everything for the three-week venture had to be carried. Specially smoked, canned, and dehydrated meats were used. Tents were pitched with squaw poles cut on the site, sodcloths were dug in, and nylon screen flaps closed. Then a shot of insecticide and everyone was safe from pests of the night and the worst that nature's violent moods could provide.

## INTO THE LAND OF HISTORY

Then came the long trip to the northern outpost (250 miles) by truck - - - 300 miles above Montreal - - - hauling a trailer of food, packs equipment, and six canoes all readied for the coming adventure. From their northern station, the Voyageurs set out on separate routes, planned and mapped by themselves. Some covered 200 miles of wild lakes, rivers, rapids, and portages. Five fellows living together for three weeks in a challenging and inviting adventure! - - - no switches for lights, no turn of the dial for cooking.



Five fellows living together for three weeks,  
in a challenging and exciting adventure - - -  
the company of Voyageurs '59 covered some 200 miles  
of wild lakes, rivers, rapids, and portages,  
rediscovering the trails of Radisson and the beaver-trapping  
voyageurs of the old Northwest Company of the 1680's.

# CHARTER ROLL

## THE GRAND COMPANY OF THE VOYAGEURS OF VERENDRYE

### OUTFIT 1

Pete Marosi  
Bob Pepper  
Colin Lewis  
Jacques Couture  
Alex Henderson  
Jack Organ

### OUTFIT 2

Ross Mountain  
Bob Clibbon  
Ross Probert  
"Chuck" Prosser  
David Reed  
Peter Whitenect

### OUTFIT 3

Francois de Martigny  
Dick Spencer  
Ron Foreman  
Stanley Gray  
Leonard Thyer  
Dave Carson

### OUTFIT 4

Michel Gaucher  
Tim Weisbord  
Bruce Fogle  
"Bernie" Achtman  
"Cal" Creslin  
Jack Organ

### OUTFIT 5

Terry Alcorn  
Bill Palmer  
Andy Aschner  
Paul Tutsch  
Steve Gruber  
Peter Whitenect

### OUTFIT 6

Ronnie Brown  
Ron Blofield  
John Rothschild  
Dick Evans  
Jim Campbell  
Dave Carson

## EXCERPTS FROM THE LOG

## VOYAGEURS - '59

### From the log of OUTFIT 3

#### THURSDAY, JULY 16

We broke camp in the morning on Camatose Lake, and dug our paddles to the water for the first time. There was a strong wind and the waves were extremely high, some of them breaking into the canoes. We lost direction for a while but a group of Pennsylvanian fishermen told us the way to Camatose River. Down river 18 miles we were stuck by a log jam completely blocking our passage. Ron got out and pushed many away. We cleared it and continued down stream until we were met by another log jam, but this one about a mile long. Dave got out and scouted ahead while

Ron guided Thyer's canoe. Stan got out, peeled off his jeans, and guided the canoe through for a while. It was a grand sight to see him standing up in the stern making like a Viennese gondolier. After an hour we got through and stopped at a small dam. We swam, rolled logs, (very wet game) ate and then pushed off. This time we had to smash 10,000,000,000,000 logging booms. Stan and Dick had to get off sometimes. We paddled through 9 miles of bay for over an hour until we found a camp sight. We made camp, ate, and after Dave and Len fished we slept. Changed ahead 1½ hours to DST. Seen: 1 cow moose, 1 calf moose, 1 deer, 1,000,000 bugs. Tragedies: Ron lost 1 moccasin.

**SUNDAY, JULY 19th**

We rose late, broke camp, and left. We paddled into 1,000 bays, inlets, and streams searching for the Ottawa River. Along the way we found 30 different Capistachoune Rivers. At 4:15 we came into a bay and saw a trapper's cabin with Indian and English writing on the wall. We continued on for a long time hoping to find a campsight. Hungry and tired, we stopped for raisins along the way. Finally at 8:30 we came to a cabin. Across the river was a huge clearing by a road. We walked up the road and discovered it skirted the border of La Verendrye Park. Somebody goofed!

We ate, and after a long exhaustive study (taking all of 15 seconds) we found that we were on the Capistachoune River instead of the Ottawa and had travelled over 20 miles that day looking for a lake that wasn't there. Slept and froze at night. Seen: 1 cow moose, 1 bull moose.

**TUESDAY, JULY 21st**

Broke camp early. Paddled along River until noon. We saw four "meese" that morning. Ate and swam. Trekked canoe over rapids. It took a long time and we had to empty the canoes of water and everyone was scratched. Portaged twice more until we reached Portage Bay. Had hoped to reach Lake Camashigama and flake for two days, but the sun was almost down and the portages too long. Made camp near a cabin and ate and bedded down for the night. Seen: 8 cow moose, 1 bull moose. Tragedies: Ron lost his hat.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 22nd**

Rose early to pleasant sound of millions of mosquitos. Broke camp and did the  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile portage from Portage Bay. Paddled to second portage and a miserable 1-1/2 miles through bush and fallen logs to Lake Camashigama. The flies were terrible. Paddled across Lake Camashigama to be greeted at the other end by a welcoming committee of 10,000 gulls who staged a protest demonstration against our arrival. Camped at a long and beautiful beach. Swam for hours, ate, and swam again.

**FRIDAY, JULY 24th**

We rose late because of rain. Broke camp at 1:00 p.m. and a storm came up on Camashigama Lake. We waited in the lee for a while then darted across the lake. It was pouring rain and the white caps were stupendous. The bow of Dave's canoe submerged every time it plunged into the waves. We finally got to the river and the storm let up but the rain continued. We continued on to one portage and then stopped at the Fire Ranger Cabin at Akos. We had tea with the ranger and his companion; the comforts of a log cabin seemed luxurious. They took us to the top of the tower (100 feet) where on a clear day one could see forest, rivers and lakes for 60 miles. The rain cleared in the late afternoon so we shot one set of rapids and portaged another until we camped for the night at an old Forestry Cabin.

**SATURDAY, JULY 25th**

We rose, broke camp and left by 10:30. We met a group of fishermen on a small lake. We shot rapids and ate at the road on Lake Bouchette. Swam a while and proceeded down the next rapids. They were rough! We cracked the ribs of Dave's canoe and tore a hole in the canvas. Repairs were made. Came through Lake Bouchette from the Camashigama River on to the Ottawa River where it was really white water. Stopped for a rest where Lenny played in the sand. Camped at an island on the Ottawa.

**SUNDAY, JULY 26th**

Rose at 10:00 a.m. and left by 12:30. Paddled along the Ottawa and across to Lac Barrier. Had stopped at a beach to eat, when Pete's group appeared. We swapped stories and also took a lot of food from them, who had an excessive amount of goodies. Paddled off again and passed Pete and Jack in second gear. Shot rapids and after that we arrived at a lumber camp.

**Les Voyageurs**

**travel**

**Kon-Tiki style**





**Civilization's northern base . . . from here up it's strictly Man and Nature.**

#### From the log of OUTFIT 1

##### THURSDAY, JULY 16

Arose at 8 a.m., D.S.T., good breakfast and a trip to the store, finally broke camp at 11. Travelling north, we passed through the Gauthier narrows and headed towards Pte. Jerome camping for the night at a point several miles short of the above mentioned place. Erected a lean-to, and caught first fish, Colin Lewis. Pete caught second, an 18" Dore. Mosquitos bad that night and the fellows slept poorly. Crew works well, but slowly.

##### MONDAY, JULY 20

Beautiful day, Lewis caught a good-sized Dore this morning. Got the reflector oven working satisfactorily and had biscuits and "Potatoes au gratin" for lunch. The fellows fished in the afternoon with excitement, but no success. For supper we had Pizza-Pie done in the reflector oven and spaghetti.

##### THURSDAY, JULY 23

Broke camp on Bay Langevin and travelled to Barrage Barriere, and first rapids which required portaging. Immediately after the Portage, saw a bear and a moose. Made camp on Nanouatan Lake, and had a good supper just at dusk. Saw two large owls above tent tonight which gave us all an eerie few moments until identified.

##### SATURDAY, JULY 25

Beautiful day, fished at the rapids with great success. Everybody's doing washing and soap is becoming quite scarce. Jack Couture went for a paddle in the evening and saw a bear cub. Had another visit from our owl-friends this evening.

##### SUNDAY, JULY 26

Beautiful morning: Went for a walk and saw a deer about 5 miles back, past Brat Lake. Twelfth day out and finally running low on food. Pete's group moved into our lake tonight while I was out chasing a bear . . . the second today. Dave's group passed by a little later; they intend to go 15 miles tonight, 5 sets of rapids included and it is almost dark.

##### WEDNESDAY, JULY 28

My boys broke camp ably on their own beating Pete's crew by 20 minutes. Then the long drive back to Kanawana. Everybody in good spirits, but a little sad to leave.

#### From the log of OUTFIT 4

##### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

Travelled the Cabonga 30 miles of paddling, all-told. High tail-winds and waves, tough job to avoid shipping water. Arrived in Washego Channel about 7:30, the fellows, tired, and rain coming on, so camped in a cosy log cabin near destined camping spot.

##### THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

Fishing, Bruce caught a 10-pound Pike, Bernie on his first time fishing, lost a 20-pounder, at least, when his line broke in the fight. Several fish caught this evening, Bernie landed his first Dore, very excited. Had an excellent camp fire this evening which lasted to 12. We sang for an hour.

##### FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

More fishing in the morning, some of the fellows went exploring from our cabin here on Washego. Late supper tonight started at 7:30 and ended at 10, followed by a camp fire. Discussed future prospects of this Older Boys Camp, camp's purpose, and ended up in a vigorous discussion of religions.

#### A thousand bays and inlets to explore



### SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

Saturday morning were surprised by visit from Ross and Don Dewar. In the afternoon we hiked up the road from Washego, north to lumber camp where we met some real "coureurs de bois", had a coke, and returned. Covered 20 miles in the afternoon from 1:30 to 6:45. On return walk from Robb Lake did 10 miles in 1 1/4 hours.

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

Took it easy this morning as the weather was poor. In the afternoon the fellows went across the lake to pick blueberries. About 10 quarts were picked, and about 5 quarts eaten, before the remains were made into blueberry jam by Cal Breslin.

### MONDAY, AUGUST 17

Left Washego at 12 o'clock. Destination was Lac Bouchette, but because of several delays at the dam we were not on the Ottawa until about 7 p.m. Travelling north, a storm suddenly began to brew on the horizon. Turning into Wabash Bay we found a fish and game club, where we asked for information regarding a camp spot . . . we were invited in just before the rains came — and did it come! So we slept in beds this night and had tomato sandwiches and coffee before retiring . . . nice treat!

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

Another rainy day, it has rained every night since the second night of the trip. Thank goodness for the tent. Cal and Bruce made raisin bread, and chocolate pie this morning. Bushed or not, it was tasty. Visited the Forest Ranger tonight at Lac Bouchette and made arrangements to go to the tower with the boys tomorrow.

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

Another day of rain, broken by the excitement of missing a 5 pound Pike. In the afternoon, we met two American boys from N.J. travelling from their base camp, on Lake Verendrye. Invited them to our camp-fire supper, and also Emile the ranger; had an interesting talk with him and we all learned much about this region and some tricks of camping trade. Emile enjoyed the antics of the fellows and instructed Bernie on portaging techniques. We examined an Indian birch-bark canoe cached near our camp-site. Indians still trap beaver and mink in some areas.



Meeting the lumber supply boat

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

Fellows did some cooking in the morning and we had Pizza-Pie for supper. Climbed the ranger tower again today . . . we were able to see as far as Dorval Lodge (30 miles). Emile came to visit our camp fire in the evening and taught us a few words of Algonquin.

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

Said good-bye to Emile this morning and paddled to Lake Nanouatan, 21 miles. A beautiful sunny day for a change — the first in fact since 11 days. Saw an otter and had a soup stop on Lake Barriere on a pretty little island with old cedars and sandy beach.

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

Made camp at Nanouatan last night, waking this morning to more bad weather. Very cold. This evening the two American boys pulled in again, very tired. Very sincere and mature boys; they are both 16. They made camp with us for the night. Before turning in, they read their Bible.

### MONDAY, AUGUST 24

I was up at 6 with the Yankees. They hope to paddle almost 50 miles today and it is cold and wet. We wished them bon-voyage and ourselves struck out for Dozois . . . given a tow by a Yankee motor boat 4 miles from Dorval, arriving there about 5:00, where we met Pete's group and camped nearby.

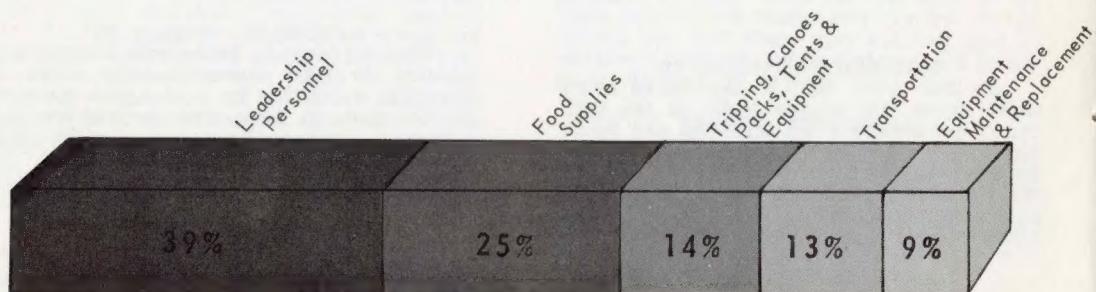
# WHERE LEADERSHIP IS MAN TO MAN

## TOP CALIBRE LEADERS PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO THE STEPPING-STONES TO MANHOOD

Tripping with the Voyageurs is a true test of a boy's mettle. It calls upon his manliness, his physical prowess and his courage. It provides all the ruggedness and challenge that nature, in all her varying moods can offer.

In this setting a group of five older boys quickly learn that leadership is strictly "man to man". Tripping leaders are skillful voyageurs in the wilderness of Quebec. They are also mature college men chosen for their good character, and their understanding of problems boys face at the threshold to manhood.

## QUALITY LEADERSHIP IS THE BIG COST



In all its years of work with Youth as a character education force, the Y.M.C.A. believes that the most important program expense is the investment in leadership persons. Social studies indicate that much character is developed out of association with groups of like-minded individuals . . . the kinds of ideas, attitudes and values the Y.M.C.A. introduces to camp groups are thereby of vital importance.

On this new Voyageurs adventure in Y.M.C.A. camping 39% of the total budget goes to obtain skilled and mature personnel.

# **PLANNING FOR VOYAGEURS '60**

## **TEN VOYAGEURS TRIPS ARE PLANNED FOR THE SUMMER OF 1960**

Additional leadership persons are being engaged. A new training Base Camp will be established in the north this year rather than operating out of Kamp Kanawana at St. Sauveur. This will encourage the Voyageurs to acquire a feeling of self-determination and complete freedom from any formal camp program setting.

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

Voyageurs '60 is planned for boys, 14-17, who have preferably had some camping and tripping experience. Minimum swimming ability is 150 yards for every Voyageur, coupled with a general requirement of good physical health.

### **TRIPPING DATES AND FEES**

Trips will be organized in two periods:

July 9th to July 30th — 3 week period — \$150.00

July 30th to Aug. 27th — 4 week period — \$185.00

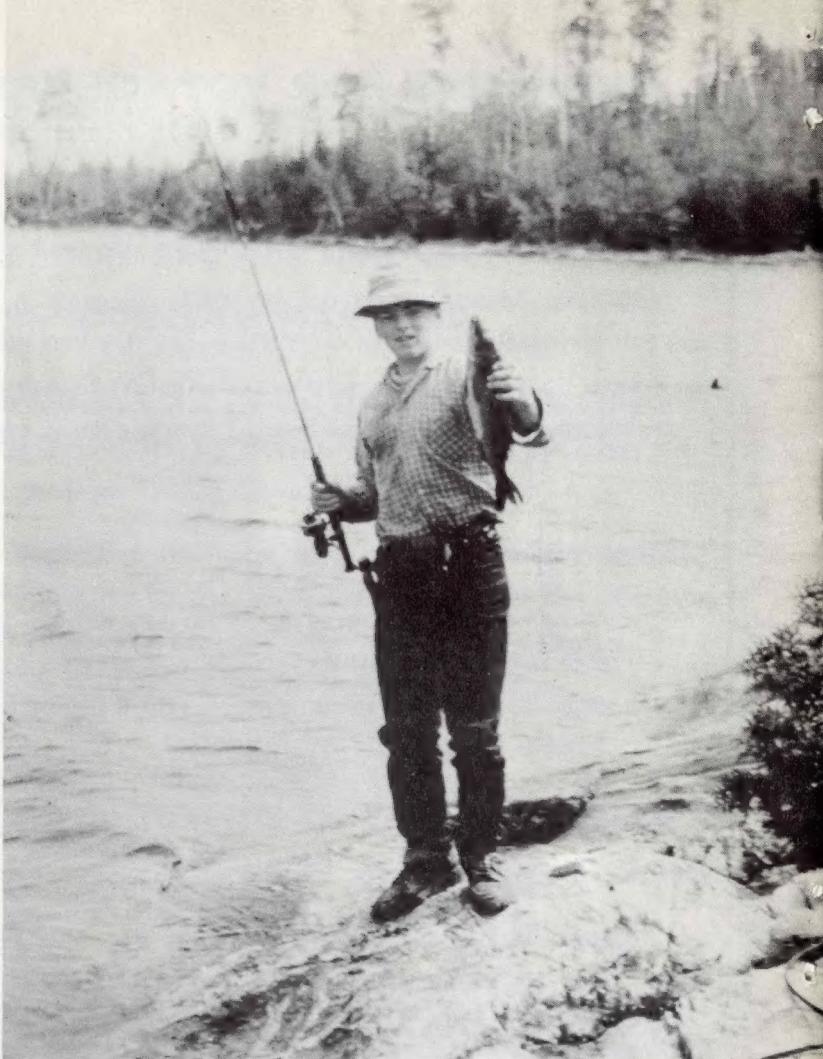
### **EQUIPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION**

Food, packs, tents, and gear are all provided by the YMCA. Transport by bus to and from the Base Camp is additional. Lists of recommended personal clothing and effects are available on inquiry.

### **REGISTRATION**

Early inquiries are recommended since the "Company of Voyageurs" for 1960 will be limited to 50 boys. Application may be made to any Branch of the YMCA in Montreal or the Camping Office — 1441 Drummond Street.

Whether you eat it  
or frame it,  
the fishing's terrific!



# Y.M.C.A. STANDS FOR CERTAIN VALUES

We call them "Values for Living". These values are not fixed points or absolutes to which people adhere . . . they are goals which provide direction to the character development of individuals.

The new "Values for Living" statement brings to the historical three-fold purpose of the Y.M.C.A. a fresh focus that is specific, meaningful, and practicable for young people.

- **Healthy and Fit**
- **Intelligent and Reasonable**
- **Emotionally Adequate**
- **Self-Reliant and Responsible**
- **Socially Co-operative**
- **Individually Re-Creative**
- **Motivated by Principle**
- **Spiritually Vital**
- **Aesthetically Appreciative**